

To: Nelson Tereso, CT Dept. of Economic and Community Development
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Subject: Scoping Notice for Regional Industrial Park Expansion Project

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has received the Notice of Scoping for the project proposed by the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) for construction of a roadway and utility extension from the existing Naugatuck Industrial Park into Waterbury. Access to the 163 acres adjacent to the Industrial park is currently from South Main Street, but is inaccessible due to steep grades. Waterbury and Naugatuck purchased an undeveloped 10 acre parcel within the Industrial Park to provide the land needed for the access road and utilities.

The following comments are submitted for your consideration.

Inland Wetlands and Watercourses

A map of this area shows that portions of the project are adjacent to wetlands and an unnamed watercourse. DEEP recommends that a certified soil scientist perform a reconnaissance of the site in order to determine whether it meets the federal definition of a wetland or watercourse as defined in the [1987 Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual and Regional Supplements](#) for the Clean Water Act Section 404 permit program. If the reconnaissance identifies regulated areas, they should be clearly delineated. Any activity within federally regulated wetland areas or watercourses at the site may require a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Further information is available on-line at [Army Corps of Engineers, New England District](#) or by calling the Corps Regulatory Branch in Concord, Massachusetts at 978-318-8338. If a permit is required from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a Water Quality Certificate will also be required from DEEP pursuant to section 401 of the Clean Water Act. For further information, contact the Land and Water Resources Division at 860-424-3019. A fact sheet regarding 401 Water Quality Certification is available online at [401 Certification](#).

Watershed Planning

Many organizations including DEEP, Naugatuck River Valley municipalities, angler groups, and others have been working diligently for decades to improve the water quality of the Naugatuck River and have made great progress. However, water quality issues continue to persist.

Development of one of the last large, remaining open spaces in the Waterbury/Naugatuck area in close proximity to the river has the potential to negatively impact river water quality if great care is not taken to manage increased stormwater run-off that may be generated by developing this site.

According to the [2016 Connecticut Integrated Water Quality Report to Congress](#) (IWQR), water quality in the stretch of Naugatuck River closest to the project site is “not supporting” for aquatic life (due to unknown causes) or recreation (due to high bacteria levels). Aquatic life can be impacted by stormwater, industrial discharges, municipal discharges, remediation sites, groundwater impacts and combined sewer overflows. [A Total Maximum Daily Load Analysis for Recreational Uses of the Naugatuck River Regional Basin](#) (2008) was developed in response to this water quality impairment.

The City of Waterbury and the Borough of Naugatuck should take into account these existing water quality impairments and ensure that they are not increased or aggravated during construction or operation of this property.

Preliminary review of erosion susceptibility maps indicate that some soils on the project site, particularly on the steeper portions of the property closest to river, are susceptible/most susceptible to erosion. Great care will need to be taken with regard to stormwater management and other activities on the property, so as not to disturb these areas.

The section of Naugatuck River closest to the property is classified as a Trophy Trout Stream by CT DEEP Fisheries Division. For more information, see the *Connecticut Angler's Guide* at: [Angler's Guide](#).

Low Impact Development

DEEP supports the use of low impact development (LID) practices such as water quality swales and rain gardens for infiltration of stormwater on site. Key strategies for effective LID include: managing stormwater close to where precipitation falls; infiltrating, filtering, and storing as much stormwater as feasible; managing stormwater at multiple locations throughout the landscape; conserving and restoring natural vegetation and soils; preserving open space and minimizing land disturbance; designing the site to minimize impervious surfaces; and providing for maintenance and education. Water quality and quantity benefits are maximized when multiple techniques are grouped together. DEEP recommends the utilization of one or a combination of the following measures:

- the use of pervious pavement or grid pavers (which are very compatible for parking lot and fire lane applications), or impervious pavement without curbs or with notched curbs to direct runoff to properly designed and installed infiltration areas,
- the use of vegetated swales, tree box filters, and/or infiltration islands to infiltrate and treat stormwater runoff (from building roofs, roads and parking lots),
- the minimization of access road widths and parking lot areas to the maximum extent possible to reduce the area of impervious surface,
- if soil conditions permit, the use of dry wells to manage runoff from the building roofs,
- the use of vegetated roofs (green roofs) to reduce the runoff from buildings,
- incorporation of proper physical barriers or operational procedures to prevent release of pollutants from special activity areas (e.g. loading docks, maintenance and service areas, dumpsters),

- the installation of rainwater harvesting systems to capture stormwater from building roofs for the purpose of reuse for irrigation, and
- providing for pollution prevention measures to reduce the introduction of pollutants to the environment.

Stormwater During Construction

Stormwater discharges from construction sites where one or more acres are to be disturbed, regardless of project phasing, require a permit from the Permitting & Enforcement Division. The *General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters Associated with Construction Activities* (DEEP-WPED-GP-015) will cover these discharges. For projects disturbing five or more acres, registration describing the site and the construction activity must be submitted to DEEP prior to the initiation of construction. A stormwater pollution control plan, including measures such as erosion and sediment controls and post construction stormwater management, must be prepared. A goal of 80 percent removal of total suspended solids from the stormwater discharge shall be used in designing and installing post-construction stormwater management measures. The general permit also requires that post-construction control measures incorporate runoff reduction practices, such as LID techniques, to meet performance standards specified in the permit.

The construction stormwater general permit dictates separate compliance procedures for Locally Approvable projects and Locally Exempt projects (as defined in the permit). Locally Exempt construction projects disturbing over 1 acre must submit a registration form and Stormwater Pollution Control Plan (SWPCP) to DEEP. Locally Approvable construction projects with a total disturbed area of one to five acres are not required to register with DEEP provided the development plan has been approved by a municipal land use agency and adheres to local erosion and sediment control land use regulations and the *CT Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control*. Locally Approvable construction projects with a total disturbed area of five or more acres must submit a registration form to DEEP. This registration shall include a certification by a Qualified Professional who designed the project and a certification by a Qualified Professional or regional Conservation District who reviewed the SWPCP and deemed it consistent with the requirements of the general permit. The SWPCP for Locally Approvable projects is not required to be submitted to DEEP unless requested. For further information, contact the division at 860-424-3018. A copy of the general permit as well as registration forms may be downloaded at: [Construction Stormwater GP](#).

Development of the site must conform with relevant CT DEEP stormwater management permits, particularly the *General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems* (MS4 GP) and requirements regarding discharges to impaired waters. For more information on Stormwater Permits, see CT DEEP website at: [Stormwater Management](#).

Erosion and Sedimentation Controls

In order to protect wetlands and watercourses on and adjacent to the site, strict erosion and sediment controls should be employed during construction. The *Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines* prepared by the Connecticut Council on Soil and Water Conservation in cooperation with DEEP is a recommended source of technical assistance in the selection and design of appropriate control measures. However, please note that the guidelines represent minimum standards and are not offered as site-specific guidance. An erosion and sedimentation plan needs to be tailored to actual site conditions. The 2002-revised edition of the

Guidelines is available online at [Erosion Control Guidelines](#).

Threatened and Endangered Species

The Natural Diversity Data Base, maintained by DEEP, contains no records of extant populations of Federally listed endangered or threatened species or species listed by the State, pursuant to section 26-306 of the CGS, as endangered, threatened or special concern in the project area. This information is not the result of comprehensive or site-specific field investigations. Current research projects and new contributors continue to identify additional populations of species and locations of habitats of concern as well as enhance existing data. Such new information is incorporated into the Data Base as it becomes available. Also be advised that this is a preliminary review and not a final determination. A more detailed review may be conducted as part of any subsequent environmental permit applications submitted to DEEP for the proposed site.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. These comments are based on the reviews provided by relevant staff and offices within DEEP during the designated comment period. They may not represent all applicable programs within DEEP. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions concerning these comments.

cc: Robert Hannon, DEEP/ OPPD